intermediates used for the manufacture of Pyrazinamide—an anti TB drug;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this decision; and

(c) the details of action taken on various representations received in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) There is no anomaly as such in the Duty structure of DAMN *vis-a-vis* 2-Cynopyrazine. The differential duty structure is in accordance with the principle of graded Duty structure and the policy of the Government followed since considerable time.

(c) The report and the representations received in this regard have been examined and decision has been taken on merits to maintain the graded duty structure.

[Translation]

Sugar Production and Sugar Prices

1595. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether increase in the production of the sugarcane as well as sugar had been estimated for the last ten years;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugar production during 1994-95 and 1995-96, separately;

(c) the estimated sugar production during 1996-97;

(d) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for unprecedented increase in the consumer prices of sugar along with the increase in its production; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the maximum and minimum consumer prices of sugar in the open market during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of sugar during the season 1994-95 and 1995-96 was 146.43 and 164.29 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) The production of sugar during the current 1996-97 is likely to be about 140 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) The open market prices of sugar during the season 1994-95 and 1995-96 had fluctuated within a narrow range. The range of wholesale sugar prices of S-30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets of the country during the season 1994-95 and 1995-96 were as under :

Season	Range of Wholesale Prices (Rs./Quintals)
1994-95	1010-1460
1995-96	1138-1510

National Sugarcane Policy

1596. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Sugarcane Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) In Civil Misc. Writ Petition No. 36889 of 1996, the Allahabad High Court has directed that the Central Government will set up a High Powered Committee to make recommendations to thoroughly revise the laws prevailing in India relating to sugar and sugarcane.

The matter regarding constitution of such High Powered Committee on Sugar and Sugarcane is under consideration.

Economic and Overhead costs of Wheat and Rice

1597. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic and overhead costs of wheat and rice fixed by the Food Corporation of India have been constantly increasing for the last few years;

(b) if so, the economic cost and overhead cost of wheat and rice during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, separately;

(c) whether the Government have estimated the economic cost and overhead cost in the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for increasing these costs; and

(f) the measures taken by the Food Corporation of India to reduce these costs ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.